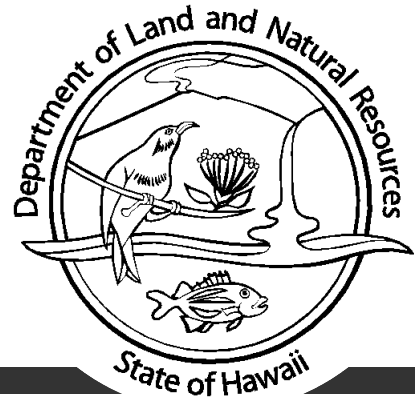


NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Deborah Ward, 587-0320 (pgr. 363-0448)
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DLNR ADDS HABITAT FORMS TO KUALOA ARTIFICIAL REEF

Next week, Department of Land and Natural Resources will add another barge load of concrete habitat forms to the Kualoa Artificial Reef on Monday, March 13, pending favorable weather. The reef, located one mile off Ka'a'awa, O'ahu, is one of five in the state designed to provide new habitat for marine life. It was created in 1972 and is the largest established artificial reef site in Hawai'i.

For safety reasons, fishermen, boaters, and divers are asked to stay clear of the barge and the reef site. During the operations, the target area will be clearly marked with surface floats.

North Pacific Construction, Inc. will tow the barge with the modules to a designated site at the Kualoa Artificial Reef and deploy it in depths of 70 to 90 feet.

A variety of fish species will benefit from the reefs, including *weke*, *kumu* and *menpachi*. As coral, limu and other organisms grow on artificial reefs, the man-made habitats become able to sustain heavy fishing activity and help relieve fishing pressure on nearby natural reefs.

"These specially designed forms, each built by Pioneer Machinery from more than 3,000 pounds of waste concrete donated by Ameron HC&D, give fish and other marine species new homes to live in, and also expand opportunities for Hawai'i's fishermen and divers," said DLNR Aquatic Resources Administrator William Devick.

Each "Z" or "N"-shaped form measures eight feet long by four feet wide with 12-inch legs at each end facing in opposite directions. A barge load contains between 400 to 450 forms, and weighs a total of more than 600 tons.

"This will make the fourth barge load of habitat forms, totaling more than 2400 tons, that we have added to the Kualoa Reef since December 1999. We also added a barge last month. By providing additional habitats for fish and other marine species, we aim to increase reef fish populations, and also expand opportunities for Hawai'i's fishermen and divers," said DLNR Aquatic Resources Administrator William Devick.

For more information on the Artificial Reef Program contact Brian Kanenaka at 587-0332.

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